

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Sustainability Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
June 23, 2010

Present: Duffy (chair), Stoddard, Stafford, Walton (staff), Hultgren (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m.

The May 26, 2010 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Walton distributed information on a Training for Transition course that will be offered in Hartford on July 10 – 11, 2010.

Walton reported that student intern, Michael Burke, is almost finished with the input of the 2008/2009 municipal energy data for the small town carbon calculator. Hultgren suggested that once the calculator data is complete, the committee should begin prioritizing its goals.

The committee reviewed a matrix for selecting sustainable sites. Stoddard offered to work on a point system matrix for the selection of sustainable sites that can be applied to the Mansfield schools. A public hearing for the school buildings project is scheduled for June 28, 2010. Duffy stated that she will attend and offer the sustainability committee's help in site selection. Committee members were asked to look for school siting success stories and send them to Stoddard.

At the next meeting Matthews will present a draft outline of the sustainability committee's efforts for the past year that can be fashioned into an annual report for the Town Council. The committee will prepare for a September presentation before the Town Council.

Walton stated that applications are being accepted again for the Climate Showcase Communities grant. Last year Mansfield's grant application included an electric car-sharing program and charging stations powered by a solar carport on the Storrs downtown intermodal center. The committee recommended reapplying with a focus on a joint car-sharing venture with UConn. Staff will also explore the viability of biodiesel car-sharing as a way to complement Richard Parnas' UConn biodiesel production. The grant deadline is July 26, 2010. Letters of support will be sought from the DEP and Storrs Automotive.

Walton reported that the Department of Energy awarded full funding to the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Challenge grant. Fourteen Connecticut towns, including Mansfield, will be participating through their clean energy task forces. Each town's goal will be to work with 10% of their households and businesses to reduce their energy use by at least 20% and boost the use of clean, renewable energy. Walton anticipates that the grant

will begin in the fall.

Duffy stated that resident Sally Milius is interested in participating in the sustainability committee. All are welcome to attend and contribute to the meetings.

Stafford reported that she is working with a start-up company out of Mystic, CT that is making small turbines that only need horizontal water flow to generate energy. It was suggested that a future meeting include a presentation on hydro-power featuring this new type of technology as well as Sam Shifrin's hydro ventures at the Kirby Mill. Other future agenda items include prioritizing the committee's projects and refining the school buildings site matrix.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 28, 2010.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk